

DRAFT MINUTES

HOMETOWN SECURITY STUDY COMMITTEE

May 28, 2003, 1145 hours

Members Present: Chair General Stanley Heng, Carol Brown, Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Jim Geist, Don Marti, Jeff Fortenberry, Ken Svoboda, Larry Hudkins, Doug Ahlberg, Julie Righter, Tom Casady, Mike Spadt, Bruce Dart

Not in Attendance: Annette McRoy, Major Guy Moon

City Staff & Other Public Present: Jeff Cole (Staff), Corrie Kielty (Staff), Darrell Podany (Council Office), Nate Jenkins (Lincoln Journal Star), Hobart Boswell (Fire/EMS Study Group)

Approval of Minutes

General Heng called for approval of the minutes of the May 21st meeting. **Carol Brown moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Ken Svoboda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

There were no public comments.

Work Group Reports

The order of business at today's meeting centered around the approval of two additional recommendations for the 911 Center, and Fire Department subcommittee recommendations. Each recommendation was reviewed and voted upon individually.

911 Center

Recommendation #8. The Hometown Security Study Committee recommends that any revenue generated under Recommendation #6 and Recommendation #7 or any revenue generated from other sources as yet unidentified be used to offset the land line surcharge proposed in Recommendation #1.

Chief Casady moved approval of Recommendation #8, seconded by Chief Spadt. General Heng called for vote on the motion. Voting in favor of Recommendation #8 Ahlberg, Brown, Casady, Dart, Fortenberry, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. Those opposed Geist. Motion carried.

Recommendation #9: The Hometown Security Study Committee recommends that the Emergency Communications Center Director continue to explore possibilities for relieving the 911 system of non-emergency calls such as a public education campaign in conjunction with the Health Department.

Motion by Chief Spadt, seconded by Jim Geist to accept Recommendation #9. General Heng called for vote on the motion. Voting in favor of Recommendation #9 Ahlberg,

Brown, Casady, Dart, Fortenberry, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. None opposed. Motion carried.

Fire Department: Doug Ahlberg reported for the Fire/EMS Workgroup

Recommendation #1: The Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workgroup recommends that the City co-locate Fire, Police and 911 facilities in multipurpose “public safety facilities.” Whenever possible, additional community service space (such as health clinics) should be included in the design of these buildings to provide greater efficiency in the overall use of city funds.

Motion by Don Marti to adopt Recommendation #1, seconded by Jim Geist. General Heng called for vote on the motion. Voting in favor of Recommendation #1 Ahlberg, Brown, Casady, Dart, Fortenberry, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. None opposed. Motion carried.

Recommendation #2: The Fire/EMS workgroup recommends that Lincoln Fire and Rescue should utilize industry standards (National Fire Prevention Association-NFPA) when making decisions regarding service levels.

The subcommittee felt there had to be an acceptable standard that Lincoln Fire and Rescue could be measured against or compared to. Chief Spadt said NFPA is a set of standards that applies to configuration, equipment, training, administration. Jeff Fortenberry expressed concern regarding the restrictive phraseology that NFPA is the standard to be utilized. He suggested a rewording of the recommendation to “consider industry standards such as NFPA.” Carol Brown suggested adding the words “such as” after industry standards, thereby not limiting the industry standards to NFPA.

Motion by Don Marti to amend Recommendation #2 to read as follows: The Fire/EMS workgroup recommends that Lincoln Fire and Rescue should utilize industry standards, such as National Fire Prevention Association-NFPA when making decisions regarding service levels. Seconded by Julie Righter. General Heng called for a vote on the amendment to Recommendation #2. Voting in favor of the amendment Ahlberg, Brown, Casady, Dart, Fortenberry, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Chief Casady to approve Recommendation #2 as amended, seconded by Doug Ahlberg. General Heng called for a vote on Recommendation #2 as amended. Voting in favor of Recommendation #2 Ahlberg, Brown, Casady, Dart, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. Those opposed Fortenberry. Motion carried.

Recommendation #3: The Fire/EMS workgroup recommends that within City limits, Lincoln Fire and Rescue should set a goal of a minimum four-minute

response time to a citizen's emergency.

Note: To provide this level of coverage, the City of Lincoln would need to build, equip and staff two additional public safety facilities (one north, one southeast)

Chief Casady pointed out the recommendation should say a goal of a maximum four-minute response time rather than minimum. Chief Spadt said that was correct, it should say maximum. A four-minute response time is the current goal in their policy, and with the exception of the north and south where the fire stations are proposed, they are currently meeting that goal. Chief Casady said it is important to have a response time goal and he supports having that goal. Don Marti asked if the Note to the recommendation is intended to be a part of the recommendation in any way. He preferred the Note be removed because it assumes the only way to meet the maximum four-minute response time is by adding two additional facilities. Jeff Fortenberry also had a concern with having that Note because it leads to the conclusion that that is the mechanism by which to accomplish the goal. Doug Ahlberg said that the subcommittee provided the Note for informational purposes only. He suggested that minimum and maximum both be removed from the recommendation and that Recommendation #3 set a goal of a four-minute response time to a citizen's emergency, and to leave the note off.

Motion by Larry Hudkins to approve Recommendation #3, which reads as follows: The Fire/EMS workgroup recommends that within City limits, Lincoln Fire and Rescue should set a goal of a four minute response time to a citizen's emergency. Seconded by Chief Casady. General Heng called for a vote on the motion. Voting in favor of Recommendation #3 Ahlberg, Brown, Casady, Dart, Geist, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt, Svoboda. None opposed. Motion carried._

Bruce Dart left the meeting at 1245 hours and Carol Brown left at 1253 hours, during the discussions but before the first vote on Recommendation #4.

Recommendation #4: The Fire/EMS workgroup recommends that Lincoln Fire and Rescue should establish a 10-year goal of achieving a ratio of 1.5 firefighters per 1000 residents.

Note: This would necessitate hiring an additional 90 personnel over the next ten years.

Chief Spadt said the current ratio is 1.1, and they currently are pretty efficient. 1.5 is an average derived from analysis of other departments in the region and how they provide service to the community. Spadt said Lincoln needs more firefighters. Don Marti pointed out that the Hometown Committee has already recommended for the Police Department establishing 1.5 officers per 1000 population, as opposed to 1.97 officers which was the average for the surveyed cities, or the top of the bottom third. This recommendation is to raise the Fire Department to the average level. He did not feel that it was equitable that the Committee recommend the Fire

Department achieve an average level while at the same time recommending that the Police Department achieve only the top of the bottom third. Marti recommended changing the level to 1.3 firefighters per 1000. Jim Geist said he was opposed to the use of ratios as the reason for additional staffing. Chief Casady said from his standpoint, it is important to have a target.

Motion by Don Marti to amend Recommendation #4 from 1.5 to 1.3 firefighters per 1000 residents, seconded by General Heng. General Heng called for a vote on the amendment. Voting in favor of the amended language to Recommendation #4 Ahlberg, Casady, Heng, Hudkins, Marti, Rios Pohirieth, Righter, Spadt. Those opposed Fortenberry, Svoboda and Geist. Motion carried._

Motion by Jim Geist to amend Recommendation #4 to eliminate a ratio and use language that says to staff and fund sufficiently to meet goals established by the Committee, seconded by Larry Hudkins.

Don Marti commented that the Committee established a ratio for the Police Department and it is not fair to use a different method for the Fire Department. Doug Ahlberg said it is important to have defined goals, and to follow the same protocols between the two departments. Because of the differences of opinion on the amendment proposed by Jim Geist to Recommendation #4, General Heng tabled voting for one week to send the recommendation back to the subcommittee.

Motion by Jim Geist to send the recommendation back to the subcommittee, seconded by Oscar Rios Pohirieth.

Since the subcommittee did not have any additional scheduled meetings, Jim Geist withdrew that motion.

General Heng tabled further discussion of Recommendation #4 and scheduled a meeting for next week, with Recommendation #4 being the first item on the agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4th, 1145 hours in Classroom A. On the agenda will be voting on Recommendation #4, and the remaining Recommendations from the Fire/EMS subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 1315 hours.

Submitted by: Virginia Fischer